

**Title of thesis:** The Specifics of Children Interrogation

**Keywords:** child, interrogation

## Summary

The thesis deals with special processes and methods typical for interrogation of children. In Czech penal law a child is a person under eighteen years old. Because of differences deriving from yet undeveloped mental capabilities and still ongoing process of psychological development, interrogation of a child must follow strict guidelines and must be conducted in considerate manner.

The aim of the thesis is to describe the basic rules of conducting interrogation of a child with references to every stage of child development and how those stages affect interrogation of a child. The thesis also marginally deals with phenomena of children's lies and children's suggestibility, since both of these are directly linked to interrogation of a child.

First chapter of the thesis defines basic concepts later used in the thesis, such as forensic evidence, testimonial evidence, interrogation and child. Those concepts are defined in terms of criminology and jurisprudence.

Second chapter of the thesis deals with legal aspects of interrogation of a child. It introduces Czech and partly international legislation on the subject. Czech laws on criminal proceedings, victims of a criminal act and law on juvenile offenders are mentioned as foundations of Czech legislation on interrogation of a child.

Third chapter of the thesis sums up psychological and forensic particularities of interrogation of a child. Basic stages of child's psychological development are mentioned in this chapter together with its impacts on interrogation of a child. The chapter also briefly mentions the phenomena of children's lies and children's suggestibility. The end of the third chapter follows up with the topic of special interrogation rooms and briefly compares Czech theoretical knowledge with methodological guide for children interrogation published in Washington, United States of America.

Fourth, and last, chapter of the thesis contains several instances of real life interrogations of a child and tries to show how previously described methods and guidelines for interrogation of a child are used in day to day police work.

